

CONSTRAINTS PERCEIVED BY THE RURAL YOUTH TOWARDS PARTICIPATION OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES IN TAMIL NADU

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ABSTRACT

The participation of rural youth in the development process is essential in order to bring change in socio-economic structure and improving the rural quality of life. The place of rural youth class is more important for the future of country. Rural youth are the precious human assets who can play an important role in the development of agriculture and other allied activities. The rural youth male and female, because of their family and community background in farming are active partners in various agriculture allied activities. Youths can make their constructive contribution to national development and through which society can benefit from the idealism and the sense of dedication of youth at the same time, they also get benefitted from their active participation in development activities, since such participation increases their self esteem, gives them a sense of identity and of being needed by the society. India has rich rural youth potential. The population of rural youth in developmental activities contribute to national development. Several studies confirm that there exist a shifting pattern in the occupation of rural youth from agriculture to other nonfarm activities and during this process they experience lot of constraints and difficulties. An analysis of such constraints would help in developing appropriate strategies. Hence in this study an analysis was made in Coimbatore district of Tamil Nadu with 200 sample rural youth respondents. Most of the respondents expressed more conflict among the people in the village, lack of higher educational facilities, lack of business development opportunities and related experiences as their key constraints.

KEYWORDS: Rural Youth, Activities, Participation, Constraints and Tamil Nadu

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INTRODUCTION

India has the largest youth population in the world that is poised to increase further in the coming decade. 70.00 per cent of India's population is below the age of 35 years. This pool of youth population needs to be engaged in the mainstream development of India. According to the initial figures of the 2011 census, the youth population in the country including adolescents is around 550 million. India had a total youth population of 460 millions that is 40.00 per cent of the total population. Out of this population, about 70.00 per cent were rural youth and the remaining 30.00 per cent were urban youth. This phenomenal rise in the youth population has made India the youngest nation with a demographic dividend appearing to be a reality as, majority of the youth comes from rural areas, they are considered as the nation builders of tomorrow. It is indeed vital to utilize this demographic dividend and channelize the youth and development of a their creative energies for nation-building. Youths are the power. The overall country depends on their regimented, active and skilled youth power. Therefore in general, youths are considered as those between the age group of 18 to 35 years according to the initial figures of the 2011 census.

Dhillon and Hansara (1995) indicated the constraints in way of securing peoples participation viz., i) Lack of awareness ii) Non-involvement of community and local leader iii) Village factionalism, rural power structure and vested interest of people iv) Apathy of the bureaucracy at low levels v) Illiterate and poverty of local people and vi) Lack of inhibition and motivation.

Madhava Reddy (2001) reported that, more than two thirds (80.00%) of the government organizations watershed beneficiaries expressed that lack of knowledge about the programme as their constraint. This was followed by uneven distribution of incentives (68.30%) and poor quality work (63.33%) with respect to NGO beneficiaries as high as 60.00 per cent of the respondents expressed that lack of knowledge about the programme followed by lack of motivation from the village leader (41.66%) and 30.00 per cent of the beneficiaries expressed poor quality of work as their main constraint in participation in watershed development programme.

Ramanna (1999) reported the constraints faced by majority of the beneficiaries in watershed development programme implemented by NGO. They faced constraints such as lack of knowledge, lack of interest, unfavorable attitude of extension personnel, lack of time and groupism and politics.

Hence in this study an attempt has been made to study the constraints perceived by the rural youth towards participation of rural development activities.

METHODOLOGY

The study was taken up in Coimbatore district of Tamil Nadu which consists of twelve blocks and out of these, Karamadai block was purposively selected based on the maximum rural youth population and various rural development activities being carried out in karamadai block. By having discussion made with the planners, administrators, extension fundamentals and others directly and indirectly concerned with the development of the rural youth and also with selected rural youth members. Totally 200 respondents were selected for the study area by employing simple random sampling method. Percentage analysis was done to get meaningful interpretation of the study. Data were collected using well structured and standardized interview schedule.

FINDING AND DISCUSSIONS

The distribution of respondents according to the constraints perceived rural youth towards participation of rural development activities presented in table 1.

Table 1: Distribution of Respondents According to their Constraints Perceived Rural Youth towards Participation of Rural Development Activities. (N= 200)*

S. No	Constraints	Number	Percentage	Rank
1	Developmental activities are more risky and time consuming process	60	30.00	VIII
2	No business development or growth	93	46.50	III
3	Lack of knowledge about improved agricultural technology	76	38.00	VI
4	Social isolation	23	11.50	XIX
5	Lack of accessible opportunities, transport facilities	84	42.00	IV
6	Poor broadband and mobile phone signal	31	15.50	XV
7	More conflict among the people in a village	118	59.00	I

Table 1: Contd.,				
8	Informing People living in rural areas about services is difficult	66	33.00	VII
9	There is no awareness about activities	43	21.50	XII
10	There is no time to participate in rural developmental activities	39	19.50	XIII
11	Lack of knowledge about preparation of rural development activities	49	24.50	X
12	The village leaders are not cooperating with us	27	13.50	XVII
13	Most of the developmental activities are benefited by few peoples not for all the people.	53	26.50	IX
14	There is no higher educational facilities in our village	117	58.50	II
15	Not interested to participate	24	12.00	XVIII
16	Weak in financial circumstances	79	39.50	V
17	Waste of time	30	15.00	XVI
18	There is no cooperation with my family members	37	18.50	XIV
19	Lack of access to information about different cultures contribute to lack of awareness	47	23.50	XI

*Multiple responses

It is concluded from the table 1 that majority of the respondents (59.00 per cent) expressed that conflicting trends seen among the people in a village. Almost a similar percentage (58.50 per cent) of the respondents revealed that there were no higher educational opportunities in their village. Little less than fifty percentage of the respondents (46.50 per cent) stated that lack of opportunities for business development or growth as their constraints. Most of the young people felt that the business and employment opportunities are available in plenty in cities and larger towns and hence they prefer to move away for meaningful employment or training. Though they are doing some business they are not able get sufficient profit in their business and hence about forty percentage (42.00 per cent) of the respondents indicated that lack of accessible opportunities and lack of transport facilities as their constraints. Most accessible opportunities occur in cities where transport and communication links are better. Forty percentage (39.50 per cent) of the respondents were weak in financial circumstances despite they turned to going for factories, pharmaceuticals, some companies etc., to run their family. About forty percentage (38.00 per cent) of the respondents expressed that lack of knowledge about improved agricultural technology followed by one third (33.00 per cent) of the respondents expressed that informing people living in rural areas about services were difficult. Most of the youths tend to get information from their magazine, local news paper or word of mouth.

Thirty percentage of the respondents stated that developmental activities were of more risky and time consuming process and about one fourth of the (26.50 per cent) respondents revealed that most of the developmental activities benefited only few individuals and not all. Almost a similar percentage of the respondents reported that lack of knowledge about preparation of rural development activities (24.50 per cent) lack of access to information about different cultures (23.50 per cent) contribute to lack of awareness about one fifth (21.50 percentage) of the respondents reported that there was no awareness about activities and almost a similar percentage (19.50 per cent) of the respondents revealed that there was no much time to participate in rural developmental activities.

Nearly one fifth (18.50 per cent) of the respondents stated that there was no cooperation with their family members. 15.50 per cent of the respondents reported the use of poor broadband and mobile phone signal. This impacted greatly on young peoples as most use internet or mobiles to engage in social activities, as well as their training and vocational opportunities. Fifteen percentage of the respondents felt that participation rural developmental activities are waste affair. Almost a similar percentage of the respondents revealed that the village leaders were not cooperating with them (13.50 per cent) followed by 12.00 per cent of the respondents who revealed that they were not interested to participate in the rural development activities. A lesser percentage (11.50 per cent) of the respondents reported that their rural areas do not provide an effective opportunity to meet other people with whom they can share common experiences because of social isolation which will further affected their opportunity to develop.

CONCLUSIONS

Youth are the most potent segment of the population of a country. The socio-economic development and prosperity of rural areas depends, to a considerable extent, on the type of youth living in rural areas, because the rural youth have abilities to orient themselves to go along the main stream of the development process. Development of youth determines the development of community and country as a whole. Access to information about training and development opportunities for adult volunteers and staff working within voluntary organizations, including first aid, food hygiene, conflict resolution, youth work training etc., are most needed. Access to resources and information developing young people are most preferred by the rural young communities and hence adequate policy measures are required.

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